

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Vice Chair Jill Cohenour, on April 10, 2017 at 3:00 PM, in Room 303
Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Dick Barrett (D)
Sen. Jill Cohenour (D)
Sen. Pat Connell (R)
Sen. Jennifer Fielder (R)
Sen. Jedediah Hinkle (R)
Sen. Mary McNally (D)
Sen. Mike Phillips (D)
Sen. JP Pomnichowski (D)
Sen. Tom Richmond (R)

Members Excused:

Sen. Chas Vincent, Chair (R)
Sen. Jeffrey W. Welborn, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Duane Ankney (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Pat Christian, Committee Secretary
Hope Stockwell, Legislative Branch

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 597, 4/4/2017; HB 644, 4/4/2017; HB 107, 4/4/2017

00:01:08 Sen. Cohenour

00:01:39 Recess

00:02:55 Reconvene

HEARING ON HB 644

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:02:59 Rep. Willis Curdy (D), HD 98, opened the hearing on HB 644, Prohibit interference with aerial wildfire suppression.

[EXHIBIT\(nas75a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(nas75a02\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:09:13 Rep. Barry Usher, HD 40

00:11:10 Bob Harrington, Forestry Division administrator, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:13:55 Sen. Connell

00:14:34 Rep. Curdy

00:17:46 Sen. Connell

00:18:51 Rep. Curdy

00:19:57 Sen. Connell

00:20:52 Mr. Harrington, DNRC

00:21:10 Sen. Pomnichowski

00:22:33 Rep. Curdy

00:23:18 Sen. Pomnichowski

00:24:17 Rep. Curdy

00:24:54 Chair Cohenour

00:25:04 Rep. Curdy

00:25:12 Sen. Fielder

00:25:44 Rep. Curdy

00:27:56 Sen. Fielder

00:28:06 Sen. McNally entered the meeting.

00:28:18 Rep. Curdy

00:28:39 Sen. Fielder

00:28:57 Rep. Curdy

00:29:15 Sen. Fielder

Closing by Sponsor:

00:29:36 Rep. Curdy

HEARING ON HB 597

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:31:50 Rep. Alan Doane (R), HD 36, opened the hearing on HB 597, Create voluntary contribution account to acquire public access easements.

[EXHIBIT\(nas75a03\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:33:57 Ryan Weiss, public access specialist, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
00:35:27 Jean Johnson, Montana Outfitters and Guides Association
00:37:22 Shelby DeMars, United Property Owners of Montana
00:38:21 Ben Lamb, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)
00:39:23 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA) and Montana CattleWomen
00:40:34 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation
00:42:35 Colin Cooney, Trout Unlimited
00:43:02 Glenn Marx, Montana Association of Land Trusts
00:43:49 Wilson Ilgenfritz, Montana Wool Growers Association

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

00:44:30 Ken McDonald, Wildlife Division administrator, Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:44:52 Sen. Hinkle
00:45:18 Rep. Doane
00:46:20 Sen. Fielder
00:46:42 Rep. Doane
00:46:52 Sen. Pomnichowski
00:47:08 Rep. Doane
00:47:38 Sen. Pomnichowski
00:48:31 Mr. Bodner, MSGA
00:49:02 Sen. Pomnichowski
00:49:53 Mr. Lamb, MWF
00:51:39 Sen. Pomnichowski
00:52:02 Mr. Lamb

Closing by Sponsor:

00:53:00 Rep. Doane

HEARING ON HB 107

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:54:11 Rep. Carl Glimm (R), HD 6, opened the hearing on HB 107, Establish Surface Water Assessment and Monitoring Program.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:56:08 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Coalition, Association of Gallatin County Irrigators, and Montana Association of Realtors
00:58:12 Chelcie Cargill, Montana Farm Bureau Federation, and Montana Farmers Union
01:00:12 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association
01:01:05 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association and Montana CattleWomen
01:02:06 Brian Ohs, Montana Trout Unlimited

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

01:03:12 John Metesh, director, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology
[EXHIBIT\(nas75a04\)](#)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:03:50 Sen. McNally
01:04:16 Hope Stockwell, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

Closing by Sponsor:

01:06:02 Rep. Glimm
01:06:36 Sen. Cohenour
01:06:51 Ms. Stockwell, LSD
[EXHIBIT\(nas75a05\)](#)

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:09 PM

Pat Christian, Secretary

pc

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([nas75aad.pdf](#))